

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 00686 190803Z

21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 AID-05 NIC-01 ACDA-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 /085 W
----- 091514

O R 181426Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9320

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0686

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: VN VS PFOR NO

SUBJ: PRG REPRESENTATION IN OSLO

REF: (A) STATE 35764 (B) OSLO 0632 (C) SAIGON 7281
(D) OSLO 3972

SUMMARY: EMBOFFS DEBRIEFED PARILIAMENTARIANS FOLLOWING
THEIR VISIT TO SAIGON. ALL THREE EXPRESSED GREATER
APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION IN SOUTH
VIETNAM; THEY WERE GENERALLY WELL SATISFIED WITH TRIP
WHICH THEY CONSIDERED USEFUL AND SUCCESSFUL. END SUMMARY

1. PERHAPS MOST POSITIVE IMPRESSION RECEIVED BY PAR-
LIAMENTARIANS WAS CONFIDENCE THEY GAINED IN DEDICATION
AND COMPETENCE OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS THEY MET
IN SAIGON AND IN VISITS OUTSIDE CITY. IMPORTANT TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OSLO 00686 190803Z

THEM ALSO WAS FACT THAT OTHER NORWEGIANS THEY MET THERE,

ONE OF WHOM WAS WORKING FOR FAO, GAVE SIMILAR EVALUATION OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND ITS EFFORTS. VISITS OUTSIDE CAPITAL PROVED HELPFUL IN SHOWING LOCAL PROBLEMS AND SPECIFIC EFFORTS WHERE NORWEGIAN AID IS BEING USED. NORWEGIANS GENERALLY ARE INTERESTED IN REFUGEE MATTERS; CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY REPRESENTATIVE ASBJORN HAUGSTVEDT WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE WORK AMONG LEPERS. OUTSIDE TRIP ALSO WAS REASSURING TO GROUP ON SECURITY SITUATION, WHICH HAD BEEN A MATTER OF CONCERN TO THEM EARLIER.

2. ONLY DISAPPOINTMENT GROUP MENTIONED WAS FACT THAT DESPITE THEIR EARLIER REQUEST AND ASSURANCES RECEIVED, THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO MEET AND TALK WITH OPPOSITION POLITICAL LEADERS OR GROUPS. THEY FELT LABOR LEADER BUU, WITH WHOM THEY HAD BRIEF MEETING, WAS UNINFORMATIVE AND APPEARED RELUCTANT TO SPEAK HIS MIND.

3. THEY SAID THEY HAD BEEN ASKED ABOUT INCREASED NORWEGIAN AID PARTICULARLY IN DEVELOPING A FISHING VILLAGE AND IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL HELP IN OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING. THEY POINTED OUT THIS WOULD BE PROVINCE OF LATER VISIT BY NORWEGIAN AID OFFICIALS, BUT PARLIAMENTARIANS THOUGHT REQUEST WAS REASONABLE ONE WHICH THEY WOULD FOLLOW-UP.

4. SINCE GROUP'S RETURN, PRESS HAS INTERVIEWED MEMBERS AND GIVEN GOOD COVERAGE ON VISIT AND THEIR IMPRESSIONS. JOHANNES GILLEBERG OF CENTER PARTY POINTED OUT THAT BECAUSE OF PERVERSIVE ANTI-SOUTH VIETNAM PROPAGANDA HE LEFT ON TRIP WITH MUCH SCEPTICISM. BUT HE SAID HE CAME BACK WITH A DIFFERENT VIEW; HE HAD A GOOD IMPRESSION OF COUNTRY, ITS GOVERNMENT AND PRESIDENT THIEU. HE FELT GOVERNMENT WAS SEEKING TO DEVELOP DEMOCRACY AND NEEDED TIME TO DO IT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF NEW ATTACK FROM THE NORTH AND HEAVY BURDEN OF REFUGEES.

5. CONSERVATIVE PAUL THYNESS PUBLISHED LENGTHY ARTICLE ABOUT TRIP IN AFTENPOSTEN, NORWAY'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER, EXPRESSING HIS VIEW THAT HE WAS CONVINCED SOUTH VIETNAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OSLO 00686 190803Z

HAD A CHANCE TO SURVIVE IF IT COULD HOLD OUT LONG ENOUGH. HE CITED HELP FROM DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS, ESPECIALLY THE US, AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE CONTROL OF THE DELTA AREA AS ESSENTIAL TO SURVIVAL. HE SAID HE WAS PERSUADED SOUTH VIETNAM HAD THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP THAT HAS LEARNED TO SERVE THE COUNTRY AND TAUGHT PEOPLE THAT FUTURE CAN BE WON THROUGH UNITY AND DISCIPLINE.

6. THYNESS TOLD EMBOFFS HE WAS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY (NAA) PARLIAMENTARIANS MEETING IN WASHINGTON IN MARCH AND PLANNED TO MAKE THESE POINTS TO THOSE US CONGRESSMEN HE WILL MEETIN IN CONNECTION WITH NAA MATTERS.

7. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM DISCUSSION WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS AND PUBLICITY TO DATE WE THINK NORWEGIAN VISIT WAS USEFUL. IMPACT WOULD OF COURSE HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER IF LABOR PARTY REPRESENTATIVE HAD CHOSEN TO JOIN GROUP. BUT GILLEBERG'S IMPRESSION WAS NONETHELESS MOST HELPFUL. WHILE CLEARLY THE MOST ARTICULATE, THYNESS' IMPRESSIONS ARE SOMEWHAT DIMINISHED LOCALLY BY FACT THAT HE IS SO CLEARLY IDENTIFIED WITH RIGHT WING OF HIS PARTY AND PRO-SOUTH VIETNAM VIEWS. IN FINAL ANALYSIS WHILE TRIP MAY NOT SUBSTANTIALLY ALTER NORWEGIAN POLICIES TOWARD VIETNAM, PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF THREE PARLIAMENTARIANS WILL BE INFLUENTIAL IN THEIR OWN PARTIES AND CONSTITUTES A POSITIVE RESULT OF TRIP.
BYRNE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, DEBRIEFINGS, VISITS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OSLO00686
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750058-0903
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750235/aaaabfln.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 35764, 75 OSLO 0632, 75 SAIGON 7281
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRG REPRESENTATION IN OSLO
TAGS: PFOR, VN, VS, NO, PRG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006